



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2018

**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

**FROM:** Jeremy V. Criss, Director  
Office of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** November 20, 2018 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **November 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

**We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the October 16, 2018 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

\*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 20, 2018 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from October 16, 2018.
3. The OAG met with representatives from Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Finance on October 29, 2018. These agencies agreed with the findings of OAG that an 840-acre farm owned by the Government of Saudi Arabia (Barnesville Oaks) was developed including 24 lots and zero County or State Agricultural Transfer Taxes were paid. These agencies support an amendment to the County Code Chapter 52 Taxation that would designate collections of County Agricultural Transfer Taxes for purchasing Farmland Preservation Easements and no longer deposited into the County's General Fund. Prior collections of County Agricultural Transfer Taxes that were deposited into the General Fund are as follows:

FY 2016 Collections	\$ 538 K
FY 2017 Collections	\$ 631 K
FY 2018 Collections	<u>\$ 422 K</u>
Total for 3 years	\$1,591 K

The next step is to gain support from the New County Executive and Council to amend Chapter 52 accordingly. **OAG Transition Document to New Administration.**

4. We have updated Delegate Eric Luedtke on the October 29, 2018 meeting because he is working on a State Bill that would remove Section 13-305 which allows developers to avoid paying the Agricultural Transfer Taxes.
5. Update on the adopted ZTA 18-03 Farm Alcohol Production Facilities. The Council adopted Resolution 18-1265 requesting the Office of Agriculture to remit a biannual report on the status of farm alcohol production. In response to the concerns expressed by the community, the OAG has prepared a summary of water requirements for all agricultural products and crops.
6. The Montgomery County Farm Bureau conducted their annual meeting on November 6, 2018. Michele Cropp was elected as the President with Lonnie Luther as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Todd Greenstone as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Several new members were elected to serve on the Board of Directors.
7. The Agritourism Study Advisory Committee will be reconvening on November 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm to review the recommendations from the consultant that MNCPPC hired. This meeting will be held at the Up-County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown Room A.
8. Comcast started construction of the Sugarland Broadband Pilot last month. The first section along Partnership Road will start and the hope is to have this section completed before Christmas. Comcast is working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road after the holidays contingent upon receipt of the signed easement from the Byrd

Foundation. Several residents have expressed interest to assist in replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot into other areas of the Agricultural Reserve.

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>

9. The OAG is working on a Farming Family promotion for Montgomery County. The USDA Agriculture Census reports the average age of a Montgomery County farmer is 60.5 years old, but this does not totally capture the environment where children are returning to the farm to work with their parents and grandparents. Kira Tregoning (Doug Tregoning's daughter) is working with the OAG and she is scheduling interviews with farming families to tell the true story of the next generation of Montgomery County farmers. If Kira contacts, you please respond back as this will help us to promote Montgomery County Agriculture and the wonderful farming families that we have.
10. Agricultural Legislative Luncheon-**Tentatively** scheduled for Tuesday December 18, 2018 12:00 to 2:00 pm-Details and invitations are in the works.
11. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-December 18, 2018 at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Rural Summit-Middleburg, VA-MC TDRs and Ag Reserve-November 16, 2018

Ag Advisory Committee-November 20, 2018 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center

WIP III Regional Workshop-Clarksville-November 30, 2018 9:30 am

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-December 4, 2018@ 7:00pm

Ag Preservation Advisory Board-December 11, 2018 @7:00pm Up County Regional

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-December 14, 2018@ 9:00am